

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Activity Title: ChildNet Partnership Program

Implementation Timeframe: July 2001 - July 2007

Objective: To advance the reform of the Romanian child welfare system.

Description: ChildNet supports the Romanian Government in working to close large residential centers for children, while encouraging civil society to find community-based, family-focused alternatives for at-risk children and families. Organizations and child welfare professionals receive training, technical assistance, and sub-grants so that they can reduce the dependence on and use of state-run institutions, working toward the vision of a world where every child grows up in a family setting and enters adulthood as a fully-integrated member of society.

Implementing Partner: World Learning

Website: www.worldlearning.org/childnet

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Activity Title: Support for Changing Attitudes

Implementation Timeframe: August 2004 – July 2007

Objective: To implement a strong Special Olympics program in Romania.

Description: The program targets children and adults with learning disabilities who live in natural or foster families, group homes, or institutions, focusing on their integration into mainstream society. By July, 2007, 15,000 athletes throughout Romania, along with thousands of volunteers (including students and professionals) and family members, will have participated in sports events, family support networks, athlete leadership training, etc. This will be done in close collaboration with NGOs and public institutions working with children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Implementing Partner: Special Olympics Inc. through Special Olympics Romania Foundation

Website: <http://www.specialolympics.org> and <http://www.specialolympics.ro>

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Activity Title: Romanian Family Health Initiative (RFHI)

Implementation Timeframe: September 2001 - September 2006

Objective: To increase access to and use of quality reproductive health services at primary health care level

Description: RFHI works with the Ministry of Health to promote institutional and policy reform in key areas. Its goal is to integrate reproductive health into the existing structure at the primary care level. To accomplish this, RFHI experts provide technical, managerial and capacity-

building support to key Romanian partner organizations. Community participation in all issues related to reproductive health is encouraged through a solid partnership with all levels of civil society in Romania. All these activities are carried out through an entirely consultative and participatory process with the Ministry of Health, National Health Insurance House, other Ministries, and USAID. The final goal is to have 40% of primary health care providers (at least 60% of whom are in rural areas) offering basic reproductive health services. RFHI emphasizes support to poor urban women and to Roma women living in rural areas.

Due to the extensive health effects of the 2005 flooding, some flood relief projects are also being implemented through the Romanian Family Health Initiative. For more information on USAID/Romania's flood relief projects, visit http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/countries/ro/

Implementing Partner: John Snow, Inc. Research and Training Institute
For more details, please visit <http://www.jsi.com>

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Activity Title: Strengthening Community Programs Addressing HIV/AIDS and Family Violence in Romania

Implementation Timeframe: April 2005 - April 2008

Objective: Raising awareness of and changing Romanians' attitudes about HIV/AIDS and family violence, in order to promote responsible preventive behavior, combat discrimination, and support the social inclusion of those affected.

Description: USAID/Romania, the Romanian Orthodox Church, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and the Ministry of Education have become allies to support community activities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and family violence, as well as to support the social integration of people affected by HIV. Program activities include: developing and testing messages about the prevention of HIV/AIDS and family violence and about combating discrimination toward those affected; training a cadre of Romanian Orthodox Church representatives and teachers to disseminate these messages in their parish communities and in schools; organizing youth clubs for extracurricular school activities to empower students with knowledge about HIV/AIDS and family violence, as well as fostering a sense of acceptance for those affected; and developing community outreach and service pilot projects with local NGOs in the area of family violence and HIV/AIDS.

Implementing Partner: International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church

Website: http://www.iocc.org/countries_romania.shtml

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Activity Title: Romanian Health Reform Program

Implementation Timeframe: September 29, 2005 – March 31, 2008

Objective: To help Romania reform the health system by improving primary health care services; ensuring that the procurement system of pharmaceuticals is transparent and efficient; and empowering citizens to advocate for better health care.

Description: The program will help the Ministry of Health redistribute resources from an inefficient and non-transparent hospital system to primary health care services. Focusing on open market rules of competition, it will enable pharmaceuticals to be procured transparently. In addition, it will improve the ability of citizens to lobby for higher quality, affordable and more accessible health care.

Implementing Partner: University Research Co., LLC

Website: <http://www.urc-chs.com>

updated September 5, 2006